



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

London SW1A 2AH

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*Dear Philip,*

Prime Minister's Meeting with the Taoiseach, 3 July:  
EU Issues

... I attach points to make and background on EU issues for this meeting.

One point of substance which the Taoiseach could raise (though he is not briefed to do so) is our disagreement with the previous Presidency over the provisions in their draft Amsterdam treaty text on UK and Irish participation in the existing Schengen Acquis. The Dutch (and Spanish) claim that it was agreed that our participation should be subject to a unanimous decision by other Member States. This is a problem for Ireland because they want to take part in much of the Schengen acquis, and a problem for us both in principle and because Spain might seek to block the UK for Gibraltar reasons (although in practice there are likely to be few parts of the present Schengen acquis in which it would be important for the UK to participate). We and the Irish are still contesting the Amsterdam text on this, and have called on the Dutch to justify their account of events in the light of the record of the discussions at Amsterdam.

If raised, it would be useful to confirm to the Taoiseach that we intend to keep the pressure up on the Presidency and previous Presidency, and seek continuing Irish support.

*yours aw,  
Dominick*

(Dominick Chilcott)  
Private Secretary

Philip Barton Esq OBE  
10 Downing Street